

CHAPTER: XI PAYMENT METHODS	SECTION: 3 PAYMENT PERIOD	COMAR: 07.03.03.16
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REQUIREMENTS

- A. Cash assistance benefits are issued based on a calendar month
- B. The first benefit is prorated from the date the application request is made
- C. Benefits are paid from the first day of the month if :
 - 1. The application date falls on the first day of the month, or
 - 2. The case was not eligible for the month of application and the initial payment is made in the following month

Note: Food Stamp benefits are prorated from the date of application, and Medical Assistance coverage is authorized from the first day of the month of application.

- D. Cases in an active no pay status (Grants under \$10) do not receive monthly cash assistance, but:
 - 1. Are considered TCA customers, and
 - 2. Must have regularly scheduled recertifications to evaluate any changes that might affect the payment period
- E. Cash assistance benefits that are not accessed for 90 days are considered abandoned and can only be restored to customers if they give the case manager a **valid explanation**, such as:
 - 1. Illness or hospitalization
 - 2. Death of a family member
 - 3. Disaster (experienced a fire, flood, weather catastrophe, etc.)
 - 4. Not being aware of the availability of the benefits
- F. Restored benefits should be handled on a case by case basis

EXAMPLES:

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Example 1. Mrs. Bland requested restoration of cash assistance benefits she had not accessed for 90 days. She explained to the case manager that she had moved after reporting employment in January 2000 and had assumed that her TCA case was closed. She did not know that she was still eligible to receive reduced benefits until she returned to the local department to re-apply for TCA in April 2000. She further stated that she had not received the letter advising her of the benefit reduction or the letter advising her of an appointment to complete a case recertification.

Example 2. Mr. Colombo requested restoration of cash assistance benefits he had not accessed for 90 days. He stated he had been in an automobile accident and, after being released from the hospital was confined to bed for over 2 months. During this time, he and his 2-year-old son had stayed with an older sister who did not access any of his benefits to take care of him.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Application - Payment Date
- Payment Methods - Aged Benefits